

## Office of Environmental Health

# Update on Lead in Gaming Chips

The Arizona Department of Health Services is continuing to investigate the concerns raised by ABC 15 Phoenix regarding the Paulson gaming chips in its news story. In that regard, representatives of Gaming Partners International Corporation ("GPI") met with the Department on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, to demonstrate to the Department that its Paulson gaming chips do not pose a significant health risk to workers or players. GPI has pledged to work cooperatively with the Department on this matter.

Based on currently available information, the Department wants to update the public on this issue:

- The Department has not confirmed the accuracy of any test on poker chips conducted by any television station nor the accuracy of images on the news report.
- The Department conducted testing of Paulson Gaming Chips purchased by the Department in early November from an internet retail site. The Department found high levels of lead in these chips.
- High levels of lead in a product do not necessarily equate to high levels of risk associated with the use of the product and the Department has not reached any conclusions to the contrary.
- GPI has informed the Department that the chips currently being manufactured contain a much lower level of lead. According to GPI, older Paulson gaming chips may have contained higher levels of lead but that there has not been any report of adverse health effects in the forty years that the Paulson chips have been in use. The Department is requesting that GPI provide information confirming these facts.
- GPI has developed and presented to the Department the results of its scientific health and safety testing conducted by an international environmental consulting firm to evaluate concerns associated with use of the Paulson gaming chips by dealers and players. According to GPI, those tests found no significant adverse effect associated with the use of Paulson GPI gaming chips. GPI has agreed to provide the Department with all necessary information related to the test for Department review.

In issuing its prior health alerts on this topic, the Department was acting on what it considered a potential health concern. The Department does not have any current information on adverse health effects associated with or from the use of Paulson gaming chips.